

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-11 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SAM-01

STR-04 OIC-02 AGR-05 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /125 W
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R 221845Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 359

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1582

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD OECD EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION REACTION TO PROPOSAL FOR FEBRUARY MEETING
OF OECD HIGH LEVEL GROUPS ON COMMODITIES

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 619, (B) EC BRUSSELS 603, (C) STATE 13335

1. JOSE NICOLAI OF THE EC COMMISSION DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTOR
GENERAL LOEFF AND CASPARI, THE COMMISSION CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE
EC'S HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP ON CIEC, THE DESIRABILITY
OF HOLDING AN OECD HIGH LEVEL COMMODITY GROUP MEETING (HLGC)
ON FEB. 9-10 AND THE USE OF THE UNCTAD COMMODITIES GROUP B
PAPER (SEE REFTELS). REGARDING THE HOLDING OF THE HLGC MEETING
THEY SAID THAT IT WAS UP TO HLGC CHAIRMAN PRESTON TO DECIDE
ON WHETHER IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE. IF IT WERE CALLED, THE EC
WOULD ATTEND. NICOLAI TOOK THE OCCASION TO CALL OUR ATTENTION
TO THE RECENT DECISION OF THE EC COUNCIL THAT THE OECD SHOULD
NOT BE USED TO COORDINATE POSITIONS.

2. NICOLAI SAID LOEFF AND CASPARI WERE UNENTHUSIASTIC
AND RATHER COOL ABOUT USING THE GROUP B PAPER AS A
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BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS AT THE HLGC. HE ADDED THAT THEY

WERE NOT, HOWEVER, VIOLENTLY OPPOSED. AS SUGGESTED
IN REFTTEL C, THEY FEAR THAT IF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
ENTER THE DIALOGUE WITH AGREED POSITIONS BASED ON THE
GROUP B PAPER, IT WILL APPEAR TO THE GROUP OF 77 AS A
COUNTER-PROPOSAL TO UNCTAD'S INTEGRATED PROGRAM. THIS
WOULD QUICKLY SPLIT THE RAW MATERIAL DIALOGUE INTO OECD
AND GROUP OF 77 BLOCS WHICH NICOLAI THOUGHT WAS NOT OUR
OBJECTIVE. NICOLAI ALSO NOTED THAT THE BRITISH HAVE TOLD
THE COMMISSION THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO DISCUSS COMMODITY
INSTRUMENTS (TECHNIQUES) IN THE GROUP B PAPER) UNTIL
THE SECOND HALF OF MAY, AFTER UNCTAD IV.
GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMODITIES, SUMMIT MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU00677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760026-0055
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760132/aaaabccx.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 619, 76 EC BRUSSELS 603, 76 STATE 13335
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC COMMISSION REACTION TO PROPOSAL FOR FEBRUARY MEETING OF OECD HIGH LEVEL GROUPS ON COMMODITIES
TAGS: ETRD, BE, OECD, EEC, CIEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006